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COMMUNITY NEWS WITH TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL 7 JUNE 2019



## DETOURS IN PLACE FOR NORTHERN GATEWAY WORK

**Update** **OVERNIGHT DETOURS ARE** in place around the Norman Smith Street and Wairakei Drive intersection for the next several weeks, as the next phase of traffic improvements to the northern entrance to Taupō gets underway.

The work is to improve the northern entrance into Taupō town centre and began with the first phase of the project at the gateway to town earlier this month.

The detours are in place to enable two sections of road to be closed overnight at different times: one is the section of Wairakei Drive from Norman Smith Street to Poihipi Road and the other is Norman Smith Street. At this stage, detours will be in operation from 6pm to 6am on required days until the work is completed.

Work on the Norman Smith Street intersection is the biggest phase of the five phase project. This phase includes the introduction of traffic signals, the introduction of two right-turning lanes on to Wairakei Drive from Norman Smith Street, and improvements to the access to Pois Road which runs down to the Waikato River. While this phase was due to start in mid-June, the work is ahead of schedule. Other phases include minor safety improvements to the intersection of Poihipi Road and Wairakei Drive, the introduction of traffic calming measures and the widening of the shared path on Control Gates Hill.

## AQUATIC CLIMBING WALL FOR TURTLE POOLS

**A NEW AQUATIC** climbing wall is set to be the latest addition to Turangi's popular Turtle Pools – and it's set to be a hit with adults and children alike when it's installed later this month, in time for the July school holidays.

The climbing wall will sit on the edge of the deep pool and be accessible from the water. It was purchased for \$39,000 after the Turangi Tongariro Community Board submitted on behalf of its community during the Long-term Plan process. It asked for more play equipment at the pools and councillors agreed to fund the climbing wall.

The equipment was chosen because it was a safe, unique piece of equipment that would suit all ages.

Business and operations manager Scott Attenborough said the climbing wall would tower about 3.5 metres above the water.

"It will be great fun for people to climb up – and if they lose their footing along the way, they'll have a nice landing in forgiving water," he said. "It is one of only a handful in the country and is a special asset for our Turangi community."

The popular Margaret Sweeney Challenge is also due to kick off at the pools on 1 July. Entrants have three months to swim a total of 50km or 25km, so this is a great way to challenge yourself and boost your fitness.

To sign up to the challenge, talk to our lovely staff at the Turtle Pools reception.



## LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS AT HICKLING PARK

**THE PLAYING ENVIRONMENT** on the lower field of Hickling Park has improved this week with the installation of new LED lighting to illuminate the field after dusk.

The field is currently home to a touch club and a rugby league club, both of which train in the evenings.

New and improved lighting was requested by the rugby league club Taupō Phoenix through the Long-term Plan process and was approved by the council.

Previous lighting consisted of three eight-metre-high poles with six dated and less efficient lights that provided patchy,

insufficient lighting for after-dark activities.

The new lighting will involve three 12-metre-high poles, and will provide 12 flood lights to give better coverage of the field.

Facilities officer Darren Penketh said the new lighting would be more cost effective and easier to maintain.

"LED lights last about 12 years and provide great coverage," he said. "It's important we continue to upgrade the facilities our community is using and this is one way we can do that."

The new LED lighting cost just under \$30,000 and was installed earlier this week.

### » WHAT'S ON?

- Until Jun 1 Matariki Hunga Nui, Taupō Museum
- Jun 7-10 CARnival 2019, Bruce McLaren Motorsport Park
- Jun 9 Craters Classic mountain bike event, Taupō
- Jun 10-11 Matariki Glow Show, Great Lake Centre

For more information visit [www.lovetaupou.com](http://www.lovetaupou.com)



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